

Submission  
No 116

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am from a rural area and have witnessed the changes to TAFE quite closely. As a student, I have found that TAFE isn't a first choice as in rural areas the same courses are run year after year saturating the market place with graduates year after year with the same skills, making getting a job in that particular field almost impossible if you wish to stay in the area. There are courses online but the materials are not clear, and difficult to follow and where I live the internet is extremely slow. When you prefer face to face the options are limited if not non-existent. Often students can complete Cert I, II, III etc in rural areas but aren't able to complete the desirable Diplomas even though teachers are qualified to teach and have the campus facilities.

TAFE was for the community and for those who could upskill to find work. With budget cuts it seems that the community is no longer a consideration as TAFE's are now chasing the "big bucks" of industry and commercial courses and forgetting about the people who need it most as courses for the community don't generate enough money.

It would be wonderful to see affordable courses that could be enhanced with further study in the discipline and courses that were available to the community that weren't the same year after year and a return to looking after the Community who needs their TAFE.